Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of operating an information handling system (IHS) including a remote control and a receiver responsive to the remote control, the method comprising:

receiving, by the receiver of the IHS, a command from the remote control instructing the IHS to enter a reduced power mode;

entering the reduced power mode, by the IHS, in response to the command; and

upon loss of power by the IHS and return of power to the IHS, supplying power to a sufficient portion of the IHS to enable the IHS to respond to commands from the remote control.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein infrared communications are used to communicate between the remote control and the receiver.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein radio frequency communications are used to communicate between the remote control and the receiver.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein acoustic communications are used to communicate between the remote control and the receiver.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the receiver is coupled to a peripheral bus of the IHS.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the peripheral bus is a USB bus.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the sufficient portion of the IHS includes the peripheral bus.

8. The method of claim 5 wherein the IHS includes a peripheral bus power plane coupled to the peripheral bus and the sufficient portion of the IHS includes the peripheral bus power plane.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the IHS enters a minimal power on self test (POST) mode when power is lost by the IHS and power returns to the IHS.

10. The method of claim 9 including controlling the minimal POST mode with basic input output system (BIOS) software.

11. A method of operating an information handling system (IHS) including a remote control and a receiver responsive to the remote control, the method comprising:

entering a reduced power mode, by the IHS, in response to a command; and

upon loss of power by the IHS and return of power to the IHS, supplying power to a sufficient portion of the IHS to enable the IHS to respond to the remote control.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein infrared communications are used to communicate between the remote control and the receiver.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein radio frequency communications are used to communicate between the remote control and the receiver.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein acoustic communications are used to communicate between the remote control and the receiver.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein the receiver is coupled to a peripheral bus of the IHS.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the peripheral bus is a USB bus.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein the sufficient portion of the IHS includes the peripheral bus.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein the IHS includes a peripheral bus power plane coupled to the peripheral bus and the sufficient portion of the IHS includes the peripheral bus power plane.

19. The method of claim 11 wherein the IHS enters a minimal power on self test (POST) mode when power is lost by the IHS and power returns to the IHS.

20. The method of claim 19 including controlling the minimal POST mode with basic input output system (BIOS) software.

31. An information handling system (IHS) comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor;

glue logic, coupled to the processor, for enabling devices to be coupled to the processor;

a receiver, coupled to the glue logic, for receiving commands;

a remote control for sending commands to the receiver; and

nonvolatile storage, coupled to the glue logic, including control software for causing the IHS to enter a reduced power mode in response to the receiver receiving a command from the remote control and, upon loss of power by the IHS and return of power to the IHS, instructing that power be supplied to a sufficient portion of the IHS to enable the IHS to respond to commands from the remote control.

32. The IHS of claim 31 wherein the remote control is an infrared remote control and the receiver is an infrared receiver.

33. The IHS of claim 31 wherein the remote control is a radio frequency remote control and the receiver is a radio frequency receiver.

34. The IHS of claim 31 wherein the remote control is an acoustic remote control and the receiver is an acoustic receiver.

35. The IHS of claim 31 wherein the IHS includes a peripheral bus, the receiver being coupled to the peripheral bus.

36. The IHS of claim 35 wherein the peripheral bus is a USB bus.

37. The IHS of claim 35 wherein the sufficient portion of the IHS includes the peripheral bus.

38. The IHS of claim 35 wherein the IHS includes a peripheral bus power plane coupled to the peripheral bus and the sufficient portion of the IHS includes the peripheral bus power plane.

39. The IHS of claim 31 wherein the IHS enters a minimal power on self test (POST) mode when power is lost by the IHS and power returns to the IHS.

40. The IHS of claim 39 wherein the control software includes basic input output system (BIOS) software which controls the minimal POST mode.